canadian camping

"I like autumn best of all, because its leaves are a little yellow, its tones mellower, its colours richer, and it is tinged a little with sorrow. Its golden richness speaks not of the innocence of spring, nor of the power of summer, but of the mellowness and kindly wisdom of approaching age. It knows the limitations of life and is content."

Lin Yutang

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CANADIAN CAMPING ASSOCIATION
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TELEPHONE (416) 781-4717

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The COUNSELLOR'S Page

AN INVESTMENT

For most of us the camping season has ended for another year. Our campers have now returned to their homes and the camp rests awaiting another summer. The many good memories will burn more brightly in our minds as we look back on the weeks we spent in the bush. We are not the only ones recalling the fun and friends of the past summer. Our campers will recall many times during the year how we tried to help them learn to live with others as well as become more skilled and better able to enjoy living in the bush. We can continue to contribute to their good memories by keeping in touch. Here are some ideas which you might try.....

- Start a "CHAIN LETTER" to your campers having it pass from one to another and back to you.
- EXCHANGE PHOTOGRAPHS or slide negatives which you could have copies.
- Make up a cabin NEW YEARS CARD which you could send to campers and staff from other cabins.
- Have your campers send you a poem, picture or news item about themselves and put out a CABIN NEWSLETTER this spring.
- Make up a CAMP SONG using the tune from a popular camp song. Each camper could send one verse to you and then you could return a copy of the completed song to each of them. Follow this up by singing it to the new camp when it assembles next spring.
- PERSONAL LETTERS are always welcome and to get a letter from ones counsellor would be especially so. What a great feeling would be generated from the knowledge that "My counsellor thinks about me even though the summer has passed." A word of encouragement about school or a skill that was being developed during camp are obvious topics to mention. Others which relate to personal memories between you and an individual camper would be welcome too.

If you have the time to keep in touch it could mean a lot to your campers and the good feeling you would get from the attempt is not to be discounted either. It's a very inexpensive investment with the potential of a very high yield.

"Never tell people HOW to do things. Tell them WHAT to do and they will surprise you with their ingenuity."

G.S. Patton

ACID RAIN

The following article is from "The Probe Post" regarding a topic which should interest every citizen, particularly those of us who are concerned with children living near "living lakes".

EXPLANATION: pH

The pH scale is used to measure the acidity of alkalinity of any solution. The scale ranges from 0 to 14. A solution with a pH of 7 is neutral. A pH less than 7 indicates acidity. The lower the pH, the greater the acidity.

Each unit on the scale represents a 10 fold increase or decrease. For example a solution with a pH of 4 is ten times as acidic as a solution with a pH of 5.

THE VICTIMS PAY

Many of Ontario's most important recreational lakes are becoming increasingly acidic and decreasingly able to support life.

Of 209 lakes tested in the Sudbury area, 20 percent are "dead" and another 50 percent are threatened. In the Muskoka-Haliburton area, many lakes are expected to succumb to acidification in the forseeable future.

The problem is ACID RAIN -- a product of industrial pollution.

Normal precipitaiton is slightly acidic because atmospheric carbon dioxide combined with moisture produces a weak carbonic acid. Uncontaminated rain has a pH of about 5.6.

But the acidity of rain is very much greater where the atmosphere is contaminated by sulphur and nitrogen oxides. Sulphur oxides, the major contributors to acid rain, are emitted from primary and secondary metal smelters and from facilities burning fossil fuels (in particular, coal burning thermal electric stations).

Nitrogen oxides are also produced during high temperature combustion of fossil fuels.

These oxides react chemically with water and oxygen in the air to form acids. Downwind from the industrial centres emitting large quantities of sulphur and nitrogen oxides, the pH of rainfall has been hundreds of times more acidic than normal rainfall.

According to recent studies by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, the mean pH of precipitation in south-central Ontario is between 3.95 and 4.38. One snowfall had a measured pH of 2.97 -- over 400 times the acidity of normal precipitation.

KILLING THE LAKES

Lake areas such as Muskoka-Haliburton, where the Precambrian bedrock and often thin overburden is not very soluable, have little ability to neutralize the acid (low buffering capacity). Subjected to continued acid precipitation, the waters gradually become too acidic to support life.

When the pH of lakes and streams declines below 5.0, fishermen must look elsewhere.

Important sport fish, especially salmon, trout and smallmouth bass, are particularly susceptible to reproductive problems due to increased water acidity. The problem is worsened by the coincidence of spawning and hatching periods with the

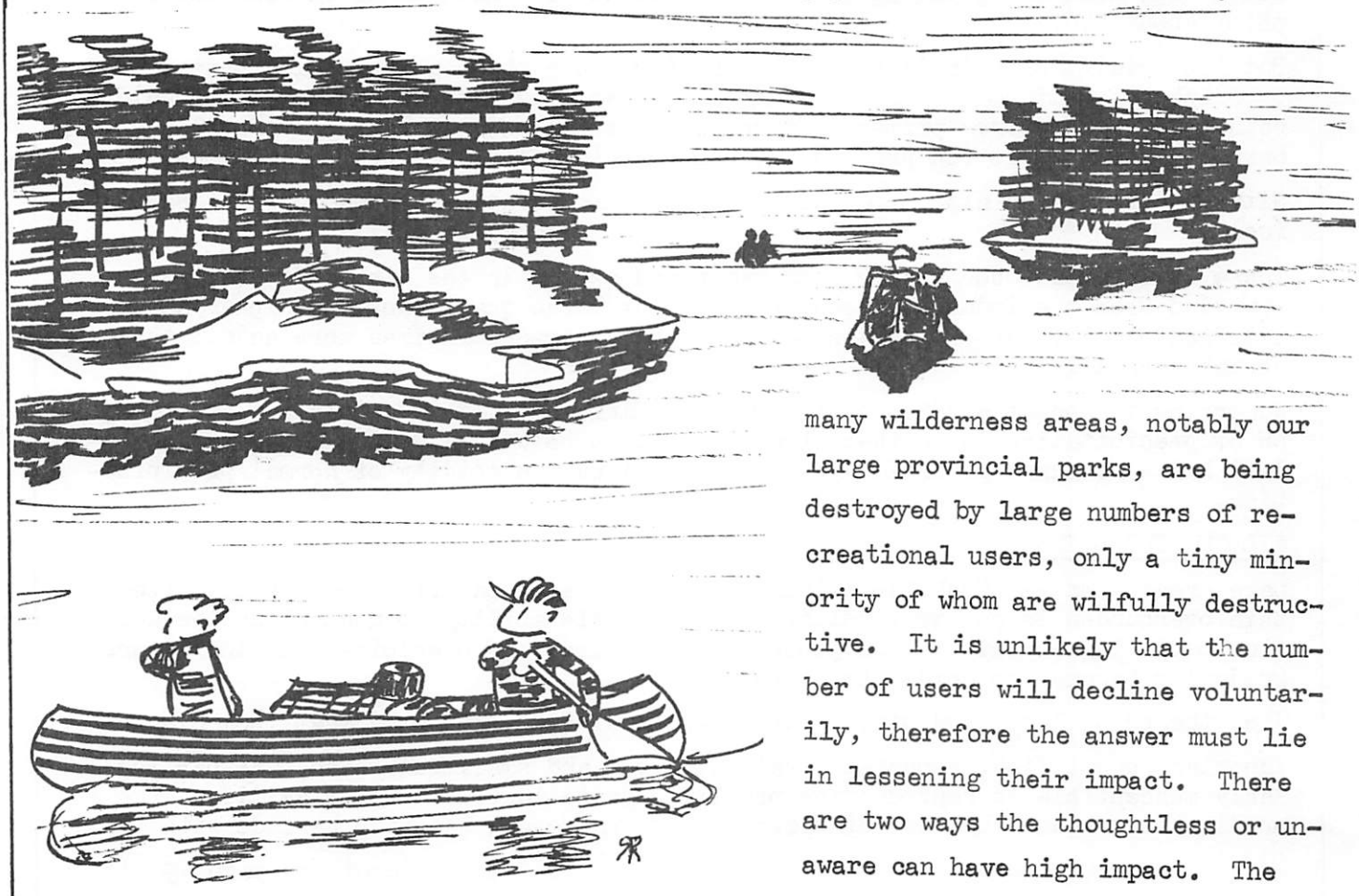
(cont. on page 9)

CANOE TRIPPING IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

> Every person shall strive to protect and enhance the beautiful, everywhere his or her environmental impact is felt.

The above statement is a portion of an " environmental ethic" issued by an advisory council of the Ministry of the Environment. The "beautiful" refers not just to things which the eye of the beholder perceives as beautiful. Anything which is functional and contributes to the maintenance of a stable ecosystem is beautiful. The definition of beautiful includes: soil aerated by earthworms and insects so that wild flowers may grow; algae and waterplants which are dependent on pure fresh water and which feed the mighty moose; large amounts of deadwood decomposing on the ground.

The irony of canoe tripping is that it has the potential of destroying the very environment the tripper seeks out to enjoy. The solitude and beauty of many wilderness areas, notably our large provincial parks, are being destroyed by large numbers of recreational users, only a tiny minority of whom are wilfully destructive. It is unlikely that the number of users will decline voluntarily, therefore the answer must lie in lessening their impact. There are two ways the thoughtless or unaware can have high impact. The



first is through over use of an area's resources. Frequent use of a campsite or wilderness area leads to depletion of natural wood supply, compaction of the earth and destruction of the understory. Nature is by no means capable of dealing with the intensity of use to which we subject some of her areas. The second way is through our dealings with waste. Now every living thing produces waste and all waste breaks down eventually. The problem lies in how much we waste, in what we do with our waste until it is recyclable, and in how we aid in its reabsorption into the cycle of things. There are several ways we can minimize the impact of dealing with waste and other resource use.

Here are some ideas to consider in order to meet this goal for camping in the 21st century:

1. Carry out everything you carry in (and a little of what others have left).
2. Consider the use of small camping stoves, some of the time. (It may be all of the time in the future.) Consider a metal fire container.
3. If you build a fire ...consider
    (a) keeping it small
    (b) letting it burn to ash, leaving no charcoal
    (c) distributing unused wood near the campsite in an inconspicuous manner
    (d) removing all garbage from the ashes (e.g. foil)
    (e) making sure fire is out using water (e.g. stir, resoak)
    (f) if you find several fire pits at your site, clean up the best one or two and eliminate the others
4. Consider gathering firewood by canoe at a point distant from your campsite even if wood is available on the site.
5. Do not blight the campsite for your own comfort (e.g. trenches, bough beds, tables, natural shelters, garbage pits).
6. Consider lessening the polution impact of soap by
    (a) rinsing dishes only and using no soap
    (b) using a biodegradable soap sparingly (e.g. Coghlan's)
    (c) dumping dish water a reasonable distance from the water's edge; do not rinse or wash dishes at the water's edge.
7. Consider lessening the polution impact of human waste
    (a) Burning toilet tissue in your camp fire.
    (b) Using a trowel, uncover the top layer (3-4") of soil. After use replace the earth.
8. Spread the word!

A respect for the out-of-doors as well as for those who come after us can result in our protection, enhancement and enjoyment of the beautiful for all time.

by Karl Hartwick
John Jorgenson
Jim Gear

PUBLICATIONS

Beginning immediately, all books published by the American Camping Association will be available to Canadians through the Canadian Camping Association's Publication Service. These books include: the popular Acclimatization series by Steve Van Matre, Basic River Canoeing, A Counselor's Guide to Camp Singing, Basic Camp Managment (a new book by Armand and Beverly Ball, reviewed elsewhere on this page), Eco-Sketch and many, many others.

Thanks to the generosity of the American Camping Association, we are, for the time being at least, able to offer these books to Canadians at the price listed in the American Camping Association Catalogue payable in Canadian Funds! Service should be faster since the volume of orders is not as great and we will still pay postage (4th Class) on prepaid orders.

We will continue to offer some, but by no means all, of the books included in the A.C.A. Catalogue that are published by large American Houses, but our prices for these books will depend on our sources of supply. We expect to publish a catalogue in the fall, but in the meantime can supply a price list of the titles we carry.

Until the system becomes well known, the American Camping Association will forward all orders received by them from Canadians to us - obviously this will slow things down a bit. If orders are submitted for both A.C.A. and commericially published books at the same time the order will be filled by A.C.A, so to take advantage of this new service, please divide your order accordingly.

REMEMBER this applies ONLY to books PUBLISHED by A.C.A.

Books are available through C.C.A. 1806 Avenue Rd., Toronto, M5M 3Z1

Basic Camp Management by Armand B. and Beverly H. Ball, A.C.A. 1979, pp. 145.

Designed for the new and inexperienced camp director, this book may well be used as the basis for a college course in Camp Administration. Chapter topics include: staff recruitment and organization; recruitment of campers; preparation of the camper; site preparation; staff orientation; pre-camp training for staff; operation and supervision of program services; operation and supervision of health and food service, finances; transportation and maintenance; evaluation and reporting; and the volunteer structure.

Price: $7.50 paperback

Woodsmanship Leaders' Guide by Kirk A. Wipper, C.C.A., 1979, pp. 155.

An outgrowth of and intended to be used as an instructor's aid at the very popular C.C.A. Woodsmanship Schools, this manual comes in 3 ring loose-leaf form, to allow for easy up-dating. It includes 3 major components: an exploration of the land ethic; a compendium of ideas on the theme of leadership; and finally, a set of practical materials on land pursuits. Some of the topics covered are: Trail Skills, Survival, Program Planning, Navigation, Food and Menu Planning, Human Waste Disposal, and Basic Ecology. There is an extensive bibliography.

Price: $6.00

New Books that we expect to be available this fall:

The Co-operative Sports and Games Book, by Terry Orlick, Pantheon Books

Sunship Earth, by Steve Van Matre, A.C.A.

Senior Adult Camping, by Constance H. Armstong, A.C.A.

Games, by Frank Harris, self published.

A TRIBUTE

Last week we lost our chef who had been with us for seven years. No famous man whose death would make headlines, but a simple man who did so much for camping by making campers happy with what came from the kitchen. No executive post on the association, no articles written, just work at a hot stove for long hours. Contributions to camping vary and I would like to ask you to spare a thought for an unknown to you, Edgar Blais, and to stop for a moment and appreciate your own chefs.

To our door he came, out of work,
Dejected.
Sent to camp's winter door
By Manpower.

Can you cook? Do you like children?"
"Mais Oui."
"Can you take long hours and little help?"
"Mais Oui."

And so he came, as all chefs to all camps,
And so he worked, as good chefs in lucky camps,
And so he worked wonders with simple food,
Are you as lucky as we were?

Sure, we rolled him home now and then,
As many a camp director does.
But warmth and loyalty were his to hold..
"Je t'aime Madame."

Have you a chef who loves your camp?
To whom it is not a job?
But a place where he is appreciated,
Where campers cheer and sing?

Have you a chef who takes the time
To answer little ones?
Have you a chef who is part of camp
Whose presence would be missed?

If you have, thank God for him.
You think as director you're important.
Sure you are, but he's there too...
Right on top, same as you.

Edgar is gone, not by choice,
He would leave a job for us,
But a notice in a small town paper
Was the final severence.

" est décédé accidentellement M. Edgar Blais. "

Madelene Allen, Ouareau.

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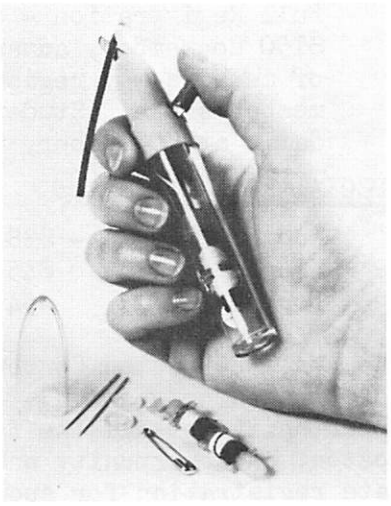

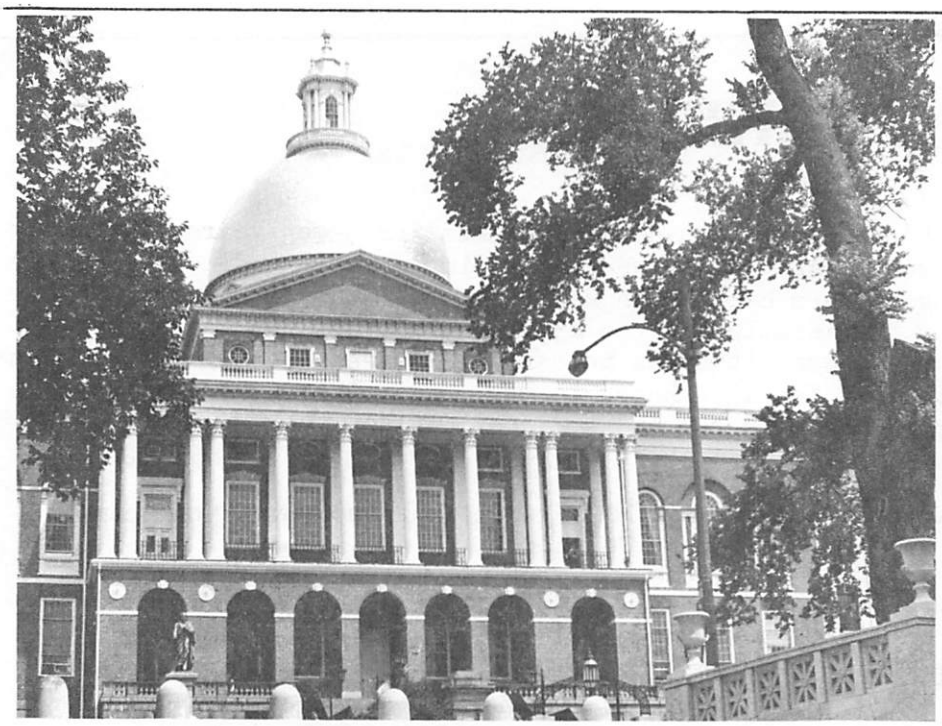

Left: The State House and Archives Museum.
Above: Faneuil Hall.

National Convention

Boston, Massachusetts — February 11-16, 1980

Hosted by: New England Section, American Camping Association
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ACID RAIN

(cont. from page 3)

times of heaviest sudden acid loadings -- during the early snow melts in spring and the first heavy autumn rains.

In southern Norway, where acid rain has been an increasing problem since the turn of the century, trout have disappeared from hundreds of lakes, and salmon, once the base of a multi-million dollar industry, have been eliminated from major rivers.

In the Adirondacks, an important recreational area of New York State, more than half of the highland lakes are now highly acidic; of these, 90 percent no longer support fish populations.

The Ontario Ministry of Environment reports that the acidity of precipitation in the Muskoka-Haliburton region is now as bad or worse than that in Scandinavia and the Northeastern U.S.

Increased lake and stream acidity is not the only worrisome product of acidic precipitation. Even where water acidity has not yet increased to the point where fish reproduction and survival is prevented, acid rain apparently acts to increase the levels of heavy metals contained in solution in lake waters and entering the food chains. In particular, there seems to be a connection between relatively small rises in lake acidity and significant increases in mercury levels in fish. Thus, even where acid rain does not leave lakes devoid of life, it may lead to heavy metal contamination of fish, making them dangerous for humans and other animals to eat.

If allowed to continue, acid rain will poison most lakes in susceptible area like Muskoka-Haliburton and eventually leave them lifeless. For many lakes this eventuality should probalbly be measured in years rather than decades.

NO BAND-AID SOLUTIONS

There are no adequate band-aid solutions to the acid rain problem. Lime can be added to lakes to neutralize acidity, but liming is expensive. New York State officials found it cost $25 per acre of affected water in the Adirondacks, and applications have to be repeated every three or four years.

According to Cal Parker, chief of the New York State Bureau of Fisheries, "Liming is just a cosmetic treatment. Control of the sources of airborne pollutants is the ultimate answer."

This ultimate answer is not an easy one. Industrial emissions of sulphur and nitrogen oxides are often carried hundreds of miles by winds. Most of the pollutants that lead to acid rain in Norway are emitted from industrial faciltites in Britain and Western Europe.

Similarly, the Muskoka-Haliburton area suffers from pollutants emitted from coal-fired generating stations in the U.S. Midwest and southern Ontario and from the smelting complex in Sudbury. The pollutants responsible from acid rain in the Adirondacks also come from both Canadian and U.S. sources.

Prevention of acid rain will require international cooperation. Action will have to control the pollutants causing damage in other jurisdictions, perhaps hundreds of miles away.

Similar cooperation has not been totally absent in modern history, but it has not been common, or easily achieved. Leadership is necessary and, in this case, the leader should, perhaps must, be the Province of Ontario despite its currently deplorable record.

(cont. on page 10)

ACID RAIN

(cont. from page 9)

AN INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Ontario is both a victim and a source of acid rain causing pollutants. Pollutants from the U.S. Midwest are a major cause of acid rain in the province, but Ontario itself emits large quantities of acids that cause acid rains in the province and in Quebec, Eastern Canada and Northeastern U.S.

Action by Ontario to reduce dramatically the amount of sulphur dioxide emitted would lead to a reduction of acid rain problems in the provinces and downwind jurisdictions. It would also provide and example for those responsible for pollution control in jurisdictions upwind from the province.

Ontario is now in no position to complain about pollutants from the U.S. Midwest. The Sudbury smelting complex emits more sulphur dioxide than any other single source in North America. Inco's 1250 foot super-stack emits an average of 3600 tons of sulphur dioxide daily!

A control order issued by the province in 1970 required Inco to reduce its sulphur dioxide emissons to 750 tons per day by December 31, 1979. But in July, six months before the deadline, the province retreated and issued a revised control order, allowing the company to continue emitting sulphur dioxide at the current rate.

Inco and the province claim that installation of the equipment needed to reduce emissions to 750 tons per day would be prohibitively expensive. They point to a federal Department of Energy, Mines and Resources study, based on Inco figures, which concluded that reduction to 2200 tons per day would cost $200 million, to 1600 tons per day $500 million and to 750 tons per day $1 billion.

But Inco and provincial officials fail to mention a 1974 report, prepared by the federal Department of the Environment, which calculated "A damage cost of approximately $465,850,000 caused by SO_x (sulphur oxides) emissions to human health, vegetation, materials and property value, in the Sudbury area, it probably represents a conservative estimate of the present annual cost of damage from Sudbury's emissions.

The question, evidently, is not whether or not the costs are prohibitive, but who shall pay them. The costs of allowing emissions from the Sudbury complex to continue at current levels for a very few years equal the costs of installing and maintaining equipment. One or the other set of costs must be paid.

Currently the costs of air pollution from Sudbury are borne by a multitude of largely innocent victims. This is unjust and, in the longer term, more costly than prevention.

Ontario would gain much by reinstating the requirments of the original Inco control order. The high initial costs of installing abatement equipment would be quickly compensated by reduced damages within the province and further downwind. And the province would be in a position to press for pollution reduction in upwind jurisdictions.

Unless this step is taken, there is very little chance that the acid rain problem will be addressed and very little pssibility that there will be life in the Muskoka-Haliburton Lakes at the turn of the next century.

"THE PROBE POST" is a publication on current environmental issues available from Probe, 43 Queen's Park Crescent E. Toronto, Ontario M5S 2C3.

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— COMING EVENTS —

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Saskatchewan Camping Association	Fall Conference "	Nov. 2 & 3,
Outdoor Sport Skills Institute (Woodsmanship Leaders' School)	Camp Tawingo - Huntsville	Nov. 8 - 13,
Ontario Camping Association	Director's Weekend - Bolton	Nov. 9 - 11,

- 1980 -

Alberta Camping Association	Conference	Jan. 24 - 27,
Canadian Camping Association	Executive Meeting - Vancouver	Jan. 24 & 25,
British Columbia Camping Assn.	Conference	Jan. 24 - 27,
American Camping Association	1980 Convention - Boston	Feb. 11 - 16,
Canadian Camping Association	Executive Meeting - Halifax	Feb. 17
Ontario Camping Association	Annual Conference - Toronto	Mar. 6 - 8,
Saskatchewan Camping Association	Spring Conference - Meunster	Apr. 25 - 27,
Canadian Camping Association	Annual Meeting - P. Q.	May

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